

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0340

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OCON, TBIO, SF

SUBJECT: 27TH ANNUAL MEETING, INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

REF: CAPE TOWN 0307

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1. DR. DE JAGER NO AVAILABLE ON RETURN CAPE TOWN MARCH 21. HE ASKED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SEA FISHERIES C.S. BOSMAN INFORM CONGEN THAT WHILE IN PRINCIPLE, HE COULD SUPPORT THE "AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT" HE REGRETTED HE COULD NOT GIVE CLEARCUT ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ASKED BY USG BEFORE MARCH 26. ACCORDING TO BOSMAN, PRINCIPLE REASON IS DE JAGER'S DESIRE REVIEW SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS WITH SENIOR PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR BEST BEFORE COORDINATING REPLY WITH DEPT FOREIGN AFFAIRS. DR. BEST NOW IN ROME BUT IS EXPECTED RETURN CAPE TOWN BEFORE 26TH.

2. WE HAVE PROVIDED DE JAGER WITH COPY OF BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF UNDERSTANDING ON MANAGEMENT OF WHALE STOCKS REACHED AT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING IN LA JOLLA, CALIF. IN DECEMBER 1974, AS RECEIVED FROM OFS/ENP/EN. (END LOU)

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3. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY DE JAGER ON CONSERVATION OF WHALE STOCKS WAS INCLUDED IN HIS FOREWORD TO SOUTH AFRICAN FISHING INDUSTRY HANDBOOK AND BUYERS' GUIDE FOR 1974/75 (PUBLISHED BY S.A. SHIPPING NEWS AND FISHING INDUSTRY REVIEW): " PRESSURE FOR A TEN YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE TAKING OF ALL WHALE SPECIES HAS BEEN MOUNTING STEADILY SINCE 1972 AND MOTIONS IN THIS REGARD HAVE ONLY NARROWLY BEEN DEFEATED AT THE PAST TWO ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION. IT IS HEARTENING TO REPORT THAT THE COMMISSION IS STILL MAKING GOOD PROGRESS TOWARDS THE CONSERVATION OF WHALE STOCKS. AMONG THE MORE RECENT FAVOURABLE DEVELOPMENTS ARE THE ABOLITION OF THE BLUE WHALE UNIT, THE DIVISION OF WHALE STOCKS INTO THREE CATEGORIES ACCORDING TO THE LEVEL OF EXPLOTATION AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A PERMANENT SECRETARY TO THE IWC. THERE ARE GOOD INDICATIONS THAT OHALE RESEARCH WILL BE INTENSIFIED IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE."
GAMON

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